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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated January 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

With reference to my letter No. 1396/POL-342/94 dated 21 November 1994 regarding the press communique of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the sit-in demonstration at the United States Embassy in Jakarta and the violent demonstration in Dili, I have the honour to further provide you with the following information:

1. Mr. Muhamad Sakir, a trader from Sulawesi, who killed Mr. Mario Visenti, an East Timorese trader, after violent fighting on 12 November 1994 in Becora Market, East Dili, was tried in the Dili Court of First Instance. It should be recalled that this homicide case had sparked off sporadic demonstrations which eventually turned into a looting spree and vandalism directed at the shops and houses of Sulawesi traders.

2. On 17 January 1995, the panel of judges of the Court found Mr. Muhamad Sakir guilty of manslaughter and sentenced him to 11 years' imprisonment. Mr. Sakir's lawyer declared that he needed one week to decide whether he would proceed for an appeal.

3. In handing down the verdict, the panel of judges stated that they had also taken into consideration, among others, the fact that Mr. Sakir's act had triggered off social tensions, resulting in several days of violent rioting.

It is the wish of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia that such information be made available to the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1995 in its entirety.

(Signed): Soemadi D.M. Brotodiningrat
Ambassador